

Annex 1: Methods used to conduct this review

Data Collection

This analysis was developed through a selective review of the available literature pertaining to sub-national implementation of multi-sectoral policies/programmes, complemented with key informant interviews (Figure 1).

An initial mapping of the published evidence available was conducted through the search databases PubMed, Google, and Google Scholar. Priority issues for initial literature scanning included: child protection, girls' education, gender-based violence (GBV)/Violence Against Women (VAW), HIV/AIDS, and nutrition. Documents were included if they met the following criteria:

- Types of documents: Programme review, report, or evaluation
- Key terms: Policies/programmes described as:
 - Multi-sectoral: involving three or more sectors
 - Subnational: state, province, governorate, woreda, district, municipality, community, etc.
- Setting: Low- or middle-income country
- Date of publication: 2000 or later

From the 50 documents identified through the initial screening, 27 were selected for in-depth review on the basis of the following criteria:

- use of data
- evidence of the collaboration across sectors
- involvement of civil society
- capacity building of workforce actors.

From the 27 documents identified for in-depth review, eight were selected as case studies for inclusion in this analysis on the basis of the following criteria:

- Regional variation
- Scale of the documented initiative
- Data availability on the effectiveness or impact of multi-sectoral collaboration
- Reflection on human rights, gender, and equity

The selection of these eight case studies was validated through discussions between three of the authors in order to ensure optimal alignment with the selection criteria and to minimize bias.

Figure 1. Search results



The authors of these eight case studies were contacted to further explore the case studies and draw wider reflections that could be relevant to child marriage prevention efforts; however, only one author agreed to participate in a key informant interview. An additional four key informant interviews were conducted with stakeholders with experience with multi-sectoral implementation of policies/programmes at sub-national levels, who were identified through a snowballing approach in collaboration with *Girls Not Brides*.

Data Analysis

Data extracted from each of the eight documents included the target issue, the title, the location of the case study, the year(s), a brief description of the initiative, the sectors involved, and key success and challenges of multi-sectoral implementation at the sub-national level.

Thematic analysis was conducted to identify key themes related to multi-sectoral implementation at sub-national levels. The data emerging from this thematic analysis was used to inform the key findings success and challenges column of the table in Annex 2 for each case study. Content analysis of the key informant interviews supplemented the analysis of the documents, either by confirming the key themes or by proposing new areas for reflection.

Patient and Public Involvement

We did not directly include PPI in this analysis due to financial and time constraints, but the key informant interviews sought to incorporate perspectives from the public in the identifications of lessons learned and to reflect on which of these lessons could be relevant to child marriage prevention efforts.